

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY UNN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY UNN
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY UNN
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY UNN
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE UNN
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0945

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, CD
SUBJECT: LIBYA BLAMES CHAD FOR FAILURE OF TRIPOLI TALKS BUT LEAVES
DOOR AJAR

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: A) TRIPOLI 0918, B) TRIPOLI 0932

1. STATEMENT PURPORTEDLY READ IN THE NAME OF
SUDAN, NIGER AND LIBYA (BUT PROBABLY DRAFTED AND
APPROVED BY LIBYA ALONE) WAS BROADCAST BY RADIO
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TRIPOLI JULY 6 AND PLACES THE BLAME FOR THE FAILURE
OF THE TRIPOLI RECONCILIATION TALKS SQUARELY ON THE
CHAD GOVERNMENT. DECLARING THAT THE THREE STATES
HAD SUBMITTED A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PLAN
WHICH "EXPRESSES THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES OF
CHAD AND FORMS A BASIS FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION,"
THE STATEMENT NOTES QUOTE WITH GREAT REGRET THE HEAD

OF THE CHAD GOVERNMENT DELEGATION REFUSED EVEN TO DISCUSS THE PLAN UNQUOTE. STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT AS A RESULT FROLINAT UNABLE TO AIR ITS VIEWS AND BECAUSE OF THE "PREOCCUPATION" OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE THREE STATES IN THE FORTHCOMING AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN KHARTOUM, QUOTE THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED, TO BE RECONVENED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES AND ALSO TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD AND THE CHAD LIBERATION FRONT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINE THEIR STANDS TOWARD THE RECONCILIATION PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE THREE STATES AND TO PROVE THEIR DESIRE FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION UNQUOTE.

2. SUDANESE DELEGATION, MEANWHILE, LEFT TRIPOLI AT NOON JULY 6 WITH NIGER FONMIN DJERMAKOYE REPORTEDLY TRAVELLING ON BOARD VICE PRESIDENT ABU AL-QASIM'S AIRCRAFT. PRESUMABLY, CHAD DELEGATION DEPARTED AS WELL, BUT LOCAL MEDIA HAS BEEN MUM ON THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND THAT OF GOUKOUNI AND COMPANY AS WELL. FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI DEPARTED FOR KHARTOUM EVENING OF JULY 6.

3. BEGIN COMMENT. THE FAILURE OF THE TRIPOLI ROUND IS A BLOW TO LIBYAN PRESTIGE AS IS EVIDENT BY THE TWELTH HOUR EFFORTS EXERTED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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TOP LIBYAN PERSONALITIES TO HAMMER OUT AN ACCORD JULY 5-6 (REFTEL B). THE SELECTION OF CHAD AS THE SCAPEGOAT WAS PREDICTABLE, BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT LIBYA HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS -- AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE CHAD ISSUE. FURTHER TALKS MAY BE POSSIBLE AT KHARTOUM (JALUD PRESENTLY EXPECTED TO ATTEND SUMMIT BUT DON'T COUNT OUT QADHAFI), AND THE LIBYANS (AND FROLINAT) MIGHT BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER PROVIDING FINAL ACCORD IS SIGNED IN TRIPOLI.

4. FOR THE MOMENT, CRICIAL QUESTION IS WHAT WILL BE THE IMMEDIATE LIBYAN/FROLINAT MILITARY REACTION. DIRECT LIBYAN MILITARY INTERVENTION STILL VIEWED HERE AS VERY UNLIKELY, ALTHOUGH LIBYA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ACCELERATE THE ALREADY STEADY (AND COVERT) SHIPMENT OF ARMS AND SUPPLIES INTO NORTHERN CHAD. GOUKOUNI MAY ON HIS OWN BE ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOC THAT HE CAN "SOLVE" THE ISSUE MILITARILY AS HE BOASTED JULY 2 (REFTEL A). LIBYA, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO PREFER POSTPONING ANY

NEW LARGE-SCALE FIGHTING, BOTH IN CONSIDERATION OF
THE FORTHCOMING OAU TALKS AND UNTIL IT ASSESSES WHAT
IT CAN GAIN FROM PURSUING THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS
WHICH WON'T BE AS MUCH OF A PUSH-OVER AS IT
FIRST THOUGHT. END COMMENT.
CARLE

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